

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (currently amended) A retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, comprising:
 - a plurality of fence slat elements, said slat elements being sized and shaped to be interwoven between consecutive links of a chain link fence;
 - each of said slat elements having a first end, a second end, a front surface, a back surface, a first side edge, a second side edge and a notch orthogonally oriented to a long axis of said slat, being disposed between said first end and said second end and extending inwardly from said ~~first side edge~~ front surface toward said ~~second side edge~~ back surface for a first predetermined distance;
 - a retaining-locking strip, said strip being formed of resilient material, having a first end, a second end, an inner surface, an outer surface, an upper edge, a lower edge and at least one securing protrusion;
 - said securing protrusion having a base, a back surface, an upper surface, a lower surface and being sized and shaped to fit slidably within said notch and being disposed upon said outer surface of said strip; and
 - whereby, when said slat elements are interwoven into between consecutive links of a chain link fence with each of said notches aligned with one another, said retaining-locking strip inserted between said slat elements and said links, oriented orthogonally to said slats with said securing protrusion disposed within said slats, said strip will urge said slats toward said links, thereby retaining said slats within said chain link fence.

2. (original) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said notch in each of said slat elements is rectangular in cross-section.
3. (original) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said retaining-locking strip is concave and said outer surface of said retaining-locking strip is convex.
4. (original) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said retaining-locking strip is substantially parallel to said outer surface of said retaining-locking strip when said strip is compressed between said securing protrusion and said inner surface.
5. (withdrawn) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said securing protrusion is relieved toward said outer surface of said retaining-locking strip, thereby conserving material.
6. (withdrawn) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, further comprising a strengthening element, said strengthening element being centrally disposed upon said inner surface of said retaining-locking strip and extending inwardly from said inner surface for a second predetermined distance and extending toward said upper and lower edges of said strip for a third predetermined distance, said strengthening element serving to make said strip more resilient.

7. (withdrawn) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said base of said securing protrusion has a width greater than a width of said back surface of said protrusion.
8. (original) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein either of said first end and said second end of said slat element is pointed, thereby permitting the retaining-locking strip to be interwoven first between consecutive links of said chain link fence and successive slat elements to then be interwoven orthogonally between consecutive links of said chain link fence, said pointed end permitting said slat element to compress said retaining-locking strip until said securing protrusion is aligned with said notch.
9. (withdrawn) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said base of said securing protrusion has a width less than a width of said back surface of said protrusion.
10. (withdrawn) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said retaining-locking strip is substantially flat and has upper and lower inward angled resilient retaining arms attached to upper and lower edges of said strip, respectively.

11. (original) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said slat elements are of tubular construction.
12. (original) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 11, wherein said slat elements include at least one internal reinforcing rib.
13. (withdrawn) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said retaining-locking strip is substantially flat and said outer surface of said retaining-locking strip is concave, said retaining-locking strip having at least one securing protrusion disposed adjacent at least one of said upper edge and said lower edge of said strip.
14. (original) The retaining-locking system for chain link fence slats, as described in Claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said retaining-locking strip is concave and said outer surface of said retaining-locking strip is convex, said retaining-locking strip having at least one securing protrusion disposed at a point spaced from at least one of said upper edge and said lower edge of said strip.